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EDWARD M. KENNEDY

Original dispatched thungh U.S. Mail Friday 5/25.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

Executive Registry
84 - 2349

May 25, 1984

William J. Casey, Esq.
Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Langley, Virginia

Dear Mr. Casey:

I am writing to express my very great personal concern over the future well-being of three witnesses who testified before me today in a forum in the Senate on human rights violations in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

These witnesses are residents of the town of Sumubila in northeastern Nicaragua. Their names are Irma Coleman, Laura Hammer and Aristedes Sanchez. At the forum today, they reported on the effects of a raid by the contras on their home town on April 17, 1984. During that raid, Mrs. Coleman's seven-year old son was killed, and Mr. Sanchez's seventeen-year old son was kidnapped. In the course of their testimony, they expressed their fear to me and to Senators Durenberger and Kassebaum who were also present that they might lose their lives -- victims of retribution by the contras for testifying today in Washington, D.C. -- when they returned to their homes in Sumubila.

I respectfully request that you communicate the following message to the leadership of the FDN and of MISURA: the Government of the United States of America requests that you take whatever action is necessary to guarantee that no harm should come to these three people upon their return to their home town in Nicaragua. I would also ask you to take whatever additional action you think is necessary and appropriate to make certain that nothing happens to these three individuals because of their willingness to respond to my invitation and to appear here today.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours

Edward M. Kennedy

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